

3. (Amended) The prosthesis of claim [2] 1 wherein the crosslinking agent comprises difunctional aldehydes.

Please add the following new claim:

-28. A prosthesis comprising a substrate and a polypeptide growth factor associated with the substrate, the polypeptide growth factor being effective to stimulate association of viable cells with the substrate, wherein the polypeptide growth factor comprises Tat protein.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-4, and 8-17 and 28 remain for consideration. Applicants note that claim 14 was found free of prior art free of prior art in the Office Action dated December 17, 1999 and all the subsequent Office Actions. New claim 28 is rewritten as an independent claim. Support for this claim is found, for example, in the originally filed claims 1 and 14.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to more particularly point out the invention. Support for this amendment is found, for example, in the Specification at page 16, lines 22-31, and page 17, lines 5-11. Applicants have amended claim 3 such that it is no longer dependent on a cancelled claim. Claim 3 now depends from amended claim 1. Claim 4, dependent on claim 3, is no longer dependent from a cancelled claim due to the amendment of claim 3. No new matter is introduced by the amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, and 8-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner indicated that the language of "characteristic of.." in